

CSR News Flash
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Five Former CSR Reviewers Win Nobel Prizes

Five scientists who have reviewed NIH grant applications for the NIH Center for Scientific Review recently were notified by the Nobel Foundation that they will receive the 2009 Nobel Prizes

Two CSR reviewers shared the [2009 Nobel Prize in chemistry](#) with a third researcher in Israel (Ada E. Yonath at the Weizmann Institute of Science) for "studies of the structure and function of the ribosome":

- Dr. Venkatraman Ramakrishnan from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, United Kingdom
- Dr. Thomas Arthur Steitz from Yale University

Three other CSR reviewers shared the [2009 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine](#) for "the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase."

- Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn from the University of California at San Francisco,
- Dr. Carol Greider from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and
- Dr. Jack W. Szostak from the Harvard School of Medicine.

Service Records

Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn served on the Molecular Cytology Study Section between 1986 and 1990, and she served on a SEP in 1999.

Dr. Carol Greider participated in two meetings by the Biological and Physiological SEP in 1994 and in 1998, and she served on another SEP in 2000.

Dr. Thomas Arthur Steitz participated in reviews by the Prokaryotic Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section and a special emphasis panel (SEP) in 2009

Dr. Jack W. Szostak also participated in reviews by the Membrane Biology and Protein Processing Study section in 2008 as well as another CSR SEP that same year.

Dr. Venkatraman Ramakrishnan participated in reviews by the Biophysical Chemistry Study Section in 1996 and by a SEP in 2004.

Winning History of CSR Reviewers

Drs. Blackburn, Greider and Szostak join CSR's long list of Nobel Prize-winning reviewers. In the last 30 years, about 30 reviewers have won Nobel Prizes. Dr. Linda Buck from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle is perhaps the most memorable because she received [notice](#) in 2004 right before she was to leave for a CSR review meeting. When the announcement made sudden demands on her time, she had to bow out of attending the meeting in person but she still participated via a conference call.

Other recent winners who served on CSR review groups:

2007: Drs. Mario Capecchi from the University of Utah, and Dr. Oliver Smithies, from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Together with Dr. Martin Evans from Cardiff University in the U.K. they received the [2007 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine](#).

2006: Dr. Roger Kornberg from Stanford University won the [2006 Nobel Prize in chemistry](#). And the [2006 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine](#) went to two former CSR reviewers: Andrew Fire from Stanford and Craig Mello from the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

2003: Drs. Peter Agre from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Roderick MacKinnon from Rockefeller University jointly won the [2003 Nobel Prize in chemistry](#), while Dr. Paul C. Lauterbur from the University of Illinois shared the [2003 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine](#).

2001: Dr. Leland H. Hartwell from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center shared the [2001 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine](#), and Dr. K. Barry Sharpless from The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, co-shared the [2001 Nobel Prize in chemistry](#).

About CSR

CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR's mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH institutes and centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR's Web site—<http://www.csr.nih.gov>—or phone 301-435-1111.

About NIH

NIH — the Nation's Medical Research Agency — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.